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COMPENDIUM OF APPROVED OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND CONCENTRATION AREAS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. This compendium brings together under one cover all the approved objectives, summarized strategies and concentration areas of the environment programme in order to provide a basis for comparison between the approved purposes of the programme and the advances made in implementing it.

2. The Executive Director's proposals for objectives and strategies for priority subject areas and functional tasks were submitted to the Governing Council at its third session in his report on the proposed programme, 1/ and approved by the Council in its decision on Programme and Fund programme activities. 2/ Most of the approved strategies were summarized in the Executive Director's report to the fourth session on the review of the status of the programme. 3/ The same document contained proposals to add new objectives and strategies for marine resources and social outer limits, to revise the entire strategy for water, and to add to or amend the approved strategy elements for tropical woodlands and forest ecosystems, integrated approach to environment and development, socio-economic impact of environmental measures and/or their absence, environmental management and information. The Governing Council approved the amendments to the objectives and strategies 4/ and decided to add a new element to the strategy for natural disasters. 5/

3. The Executive Director's introductory report to the fourth session of the Governing Council contained a list of concentration areas 6/ which were endorsed by the Governing Council in its decision on Programme Policy and Implementation. 7/

4. The text of the compendium therefore draws on the following documents:

For objectives: UNEP/GC/31, UNEP/GC/31/Add.1 and UNEP/GC/31/Add.2;

For summaries of the strategies as approved at the third session of the Governing Council, and for amendments to objectives and strategies: UNEP/GC/61;

For addition of an element to the natural disasters strategy: report of the Governing Council on the work of its fourth session; 8/

For the list of concentration areas: UNEP/GC/57.

1/ Documents UNEP/GC/31 and Corr.1-3, UNEP/GC/31 Add.2 and UNEP/GC/31/Add.3.

2/ Decision 29 (III) paragraph 1.

3/ Document UNEP/GC/61 and Corr.1 (English only) and 2.

4/ Decision 50 (IV), paragraphs 3, 4 and 5.

5/ Decision 61 (IV), paragraph 1.

6/ Document UNEP/GC/57, paragraph 4.

7/ Decision 47 (IV), part I, paragraph 3.

8/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first session, Supplement No.25 (A/31/25).

5. As explained in the introduction to the Executive Director's report to the Governing Council at its fifth session on the environment programme, 9/ it is considered desirable to rearrange the order of priority subject areas and functional tasks in the environment programme. For easy reference, this requires a corresponding change in the order of the items used in this report, which is thus arranged according to the sequence used in document UNEP/GC/90 rather than that followed in documents UNEP/GC/31 and UNEP/GC/61. The equivalent chapters and section documents in UNEP/GC/90 are identified in each section of the compendium.

6. The compendium will be revised appropriately when changes in the objectives, strategies or concentration areas are approved by the Governing Council.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

A. Earthwatch (corresponding section in document UNEP/GC/90: chapter II, section A)

1. Objectives and strategies

(a) GEMS

(i) Objectives

To provide information necessary to ensure, in conjunction with evaluation and research, the present and future protection of human health, well-being, safety and liberty and the wise management of the environment and its resources by:

- Increasing quantitative knowledge of natural and man-made changes in the environment and of the impact of these on man's health and well-being;
- Increasing understanding of the environment and, in particular, of how dynamic balance is maintained in ecosystems, as a basis for managing resources;
- Providing early warning of significant environmental changes (including natural disasters) in order that protective measures may be organized;
- Making it possible to check the effectiveness of established regulatory mechanisms and to plan optimal technological development. 10/

(ii) Summary of strategy

Though no strategy, as such, has been defined for GEMS, seven 'goals' were submitted to the Governing Council at its third session in the report of the Executive Director; 11/ these and three 'tasks' were summarized in the Executive Director's report to the fourth session. The 'tasks' and 'goals' are:

9/ Document UNEP/GC/90, paragraphs 9-12.

10/ Document UNEP/GC/31/Add.2, Annex I, paragraph 22.

11/ Document UNEP/GC/31/Add.2.

Tasks

- To select priority variables within UNEP's programme of work;
- To frame the questions that monitoring of each variable is expected to answer;
- To ensure that monitoring of any variable is carried out properly;
- To ensure that the individual readings are appropriately and uniformly processed and analysed. 12/

Goals

- The establishment of an expanded human health warning system;
- An assessment of global atmospheric pollution and its impact on climate;
- An assessment of the extent and distribution of contaminants in biological systems, particularly food chains;
- An assessment of critical environmental problems relating to agriculture and land and water use;
- An assessment of the response of terrestrial ecosystems to pressures exerted on the environment;
- An assessment of the state of ocean pollution and its impact on marine ecosystems;
- An improved international system allowing the monitoring of the factors necessary for the understanding and forecasting of disasters and the implementation of an efficient warning system. 13/

(b) IRS

(i) Objectives

- To fulfil the need for an interdisciplinary information system which would focus on the environment as a whole and not limit itself to selected aspects of the problem;
- To facilitate a maximum use of the accumulated information and expertise of existing sources;
- To facilitate the best and easiest access by users, particularly in developing countries, to sources of the environmental information they require to guide their decision-making;
- To provide a system the principles of which should be acceptable to all participants (especially those from developing countries) in accordance with the principles established for UNISIST;
- To ensure that the system can be used independently as a national (regional or sectoral) subsystem, cataloguing and retrieving sources from such systems;

12/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.242.

13/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.243.

- To ensure that the control of national data and information remains the prerogative of the Government concerned;
- To ensure that the system is sufficiently flexible to allow for national variants while retaining a common format for international use;
- To provide substantial education and training aspects so that all countries, regardless of their level of technical development, may participate;
- To fulfil the requirements of the United Nations Environment Programme for access to environmental information in support of all of its activities. 14/

(ii) Strategy

- To encourage and support the building up of national networks for the provision, use and exchange of environmental information;
- To ensure UNEP's awareness of information resources for planning and implementing the environment programme. 15/

(c) Outer limits 16/

(i) Climatic changes

Summary of strategy

- Improving understanding of the various physical processes that are responsible for climatic changes;
- Assessing the probabilities of various possible climatic changes;
- Providing the additional climatological information needed for assessing the practical significance for mankind of possible climatic changes and of man's impact on climate. 17/

(ii) Weather modification

Summary of strategy

- Consultation towards the development of legal provisions to ensure that weather modification experiment and operations within the jurisdiction or control of States do not damage the environment of other States or areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;
- Consultations with WMO and other scientific and legal experts on the development of general principles and operating guidelines on weather modification. 18/

14/ Document UNEP/GC/31/Add.3 para.4.

15/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.280.

16/ Of the five areas of outer limits, only that for social outer limits contains objectives and strategy; the remaining contain strategy elements only.

17/ Document UNEP/GC/61 para.291.

18/ Ibid, para.295.

(iii) Risks to the ozone layer

Summary of strategy

- Information will be compiled on the work so far done in monitoring the ozone in the stratosphere and the research aimed at assessing the risks to which the stratosphere is exposed;
- A decision would then be made on the action to be taken to improve our understanding of the ozone processes and the effects of man's activities on the vital layer;
- Emphasis should be given to techniques and instruments for the measurements of ozone levels and of the parameters affecting the ozone layer. 19/

(iv) Bioproductivity

Summary of strategy

- Studies of the mechanism of photosynthesis and its genetics;
- Application of existing knowledge and identification of areas where further research is required. 20/

(v) Social outer limits

Objectives

- Consider and evaluate the kind and quality of life (given socio-cultural differences) needed in order to fulfil basic human needs and potentials;
- Provide information and warnings about the implications for any society of continued growth and change in terms both of disrupted environments, alienation and weakened social ties and of the new values and attitudes such growth and change demand. In this way UNEP's activities in the field will contribute to the broader concept of environmental assessment (Earthwatch). 21/

Summary of strategy

- Seeking clarification of the concept of social outer limits;
- Developing a more detailed strategy containing specific research on such issues as those related to inequality, scale and complexity, and social attitudes and perceptions. 22/

2. Concentration areas

- Ensuring the development of the various components of Earthwatch;
- Continued implementation of the Global Environmental Monitoring Systems (GEMS);

19/ Ibid., para.303.

20/ Ibid., para. 300.

21/ Ibid., para. 314.

22/ Ibid., para.315 (but edited for brevity).

- Activation of the operation of the International Referral System (IRS);
- Evaluation of outer limits to man's activities, particularly in respect of climatic changes, risks to the ozone layer, weather modification, bioproductivity, and social outer limits, with emphasis on the relationship between outer limits, the tasks of Earthwatch and the satisfaction of basic human needs. 23/

B. Environmental data (corresponding section: document UNEP/GC/90: chapter II, section B)

1. Objectives and strategies

No objectives yet defined.

Under strategies, one element was identified (formerly under environmental management):

- Development of environmental statistics 24/

2. Concentration area

This has not been defined as a concentration area.

III. PRIORITY SUBJECT AREAS

A. Human settlements and human health

1. Objectives and strategies

(a) Human settlements and habitat

(i) General development of human settlements

Objectives

- To assist Governments in formulating national human settlements and urbanization policies which take the environmental dimension into account in the context of overall national social and economic policies, and to encourage the setting up of the appropriate administrative machinery at the national and local levels;
- To initiate a continuous and co-ordinated training programme aimed at building up local expertise capable of applying national policies. This forum will be used to sensitize those who are responsible for the planning, development and operation of human settlements to the environmental dimension;

23/ Document UNEP/GC/57, para.4.

24/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.317.

- To demonstrate on a pilot project basis the feasibility of the comprehensive and integrated approach to the improvement and upgrading of conditions in slums and marginal settlements;
- To co-ordinate the many activities in this field being carried out by national, regional and international organizations so as to avoid duplication of efforts and to ensure transfer of successful experiences between projects and programmes. 25/

Summary of strategy

- To develop the concept of human settlements as ecosystems;
- To point out the choices, opportunities and constraints involved in national policies for human settlements, and promote an environmentally-sound distribution of population;
- To assist individual Governments in formulating their policies for human settlements;
- To train personnel to plan and manage human settlements;
- To gather and disseminate information on slum improvement. 26/

(ii) Human settlements technology

Objectives

- Human settlements should be so designed that the result is an ecologically sound settlement which takes full account of the local natural ecosystem. This entails, inter alia, appropriate water supply and waste disposal technologies, a communication network that links parts of the settlement system, and appropriate building technology, including materials, construction, and building design. 27/

Summary of strategy

- Development of environmentally appropriate technologies for low-cost housing, with emphasis on self-help methods of housing construction;
- Support of efforts towards systematic reduction in infrastructure and service costs;
- Assistance for development of a systems approach to the solution of water supply problems;
- Development of more appropriate low-cost techniques of waste disposal for the health of populations in high-density areas. 28/

25/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.27.

26/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.28.

27/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.30.

28/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.41.

(b) Health of people and of the environment

(i) Human and environmental health

Objectives

- To improve the basic health of man and his living environment (special attention will be given to improving water supply and waste disposal),
- To evaluate any harmful effects on human health caused by chemical and non-chemical pollution of air, water, food and the working environment, and to assess the total exposure resulting from the various media. These activities will include analysis of the inadequacies of some technical processes;
- Based on this information, to recommend measures to protect the health of people and the environment effectively;
- To participate fully in work aiming at the control of the endemic diseases induced by specific environmental conditions. 29/

Summary of strategy

- To analyse the available data for one pollutant using a small group of experts; 30/
- To continue the development of health criteria;
- To initiate a programme to establish criteria documents for environmental targets other than man (agriculture, fisheries, ecosystems, etc.);
- To develop guidelines towards the translation of such criteria documents into environmental protection policies; 31/
- To establish a programme activity centre with capability for handling data and answering queries;
- To develop a network of national, regional and international participants willing to contribute information and data on environmentally significant chemical substances (Extensive Programme);
- To initiate a programme to compile comprehensive dossiers on selected priority substances, in relation to similar international programmes (Intensive Programme); 32/
- It was proposed that UNEP and WHO convene jointly a scientific group for preprogramming purposes to develop a programme to improve epidemiological methodology for the assessment of environmental hazards. Discussions between the secretariats of UNEP and WHO led to a modification of the strategy, allowing pilot studies to go ahead immediately; 33/

29/ Document UNEP/GC/31, paras.35-36.

30/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.49.

31/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.53.

32/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.57.

33/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.67.

- Food contamination control activities are focused on developing country needs, and are designed to serve as groundwork towards an assessment of environmental hazards in food media. The strategy in the field of radioactive contamination focuses on the updating of radiological standards, and on waste management. 34/

(ii) Pest management systems

Objectives

- To assess the environmental effects of agricultural chemicals;
- To develop and implement environmentally sound pest management systems for controlling certain pests affecting health and agricultural production. 35/

Summary of strategy

- As a preparatory step, to convene three small task forces to identify the best ways of co-ordinating on-going and planned activities with a view to formulating draft action plans, including, where appropriate, programmes of research to fill gaps in knowledge;
- Thereafter, at meetings of Governments, and non-governmental organizations, to review the draft action plans and decide on how they can be implemented in co-operation with Governments, United Nations agencies and funding organizations;
- Finally, to implement the action plans working closely with FAO and WHO and other appropriate agencies. 36/

2. Concentration areas

(a) Human settlements and habitat

- Support to the preparation for Habitat: the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements;
- Ensuring that the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation becomes operational;
- Developing activities in the field of human settlements technology, with particular reference to marginal settlements.

(b) Human health

- Establishment of the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals as a Programme Activity Centre;
- Support for the development of criteria for priority pollutants, giving guidance on levels of exposure consistent with the protection of human health and of non-human environmental targets;

34/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.71.

35/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.52.

36/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.74.

- Development of environmentally sound pest management systems. 37/

B. Terrestrial ecosystems (corresponding section: document UNEP/GC/90: chapter III, section B)

1. Objectives and strategies

(a) Arid and semi-arid lands ecosystems

(i) Objectives

- To improve water quality and animal production in these ecological systems;
- To arrest and control the processes of desertification, erosion and salinization;
- To restore the productivity of formerly productive areas. 38/

(ii) Summary of strategy

- Collaboration with various agencies in the improvement of water quality and its ecological management in arid and semi-arid areas;
- Contribution to the dissemination of available knowledge on arid lands and grazing lands ecosystems to ensure rational use of their resources and formulation of the state of knowledge in order to identify gaps;
- Development of long-term plans offering alternative approaches in management of these ecosystems;
- Training and education for inhabitants of these ecosystems to secure a better understanding of the environment in which they live, and thus promote their participation in the implementation of appropriate development plans;
- Support for research on the processes and functioning of these ecosystems through national or preferably regional institutions;
- Co-ordination and stimulation of the long-term programmes of the United Nations system in this subject area. 39/

(b) Tropical woodlands and forest ecosystems

(i) Objectives

- To identify the extent of world forest cover and to initiate assessment of trends of forestation and deforestation;
- To control the loss of productive soil through misuse of the forest cover;

37/ Document UNEP/GC/57, para.4.

38/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.62.

39/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.81.

- To evaluate the importance of tropical forest plants as a source of genetic material for plant and animal breeding;
- To support and encourage concerted research programmes on the effects of tropical forests on the atmosphere and the water regime, soil changes following their conversion to other uses, animal/plant relations, the minimum self-maintaining area, and suitable agricultural systems;
- To develop guidelines for management of tropical forest ecosystems with a view to regular and sustained production;
- To ensure the best utilization of natural forest ecosystems, applying appropriate technologies to accelerate and improve techniques for planting and regeneration;
- To improve the local processing and use of all forest products, including wood. 40/

(ii) Summary of strategy

- To analyse and disseminate existing knowledge to help in the formulation of guidelines for development and management;
- On the basis of the information contained in the overview presented to the third session of the Governing Council, to assist research activities filling gaps in knowledge;
- To establish monitoring programmes to assist in identifying the extent of changes in the world forest cover and the effects of deforestation; forest fires and other human practices and also of ecological factors;
- To give technical advice to Governments on the behaviour of tropical forest ecosystems in the face of transformation and to assist them in taking measures to ensure their stability;
- To promote a world-wide programme for the protection and planting of trees to enhance the environment, conserve soil and improve hydrological conditions. 41/

(c) Mountains, islands and other ecosystems

(i) Objectives

- To initiate activities for improving knowledge of such ecosystems as temperate forests, mountains, islands, lakes and sea shores, with a view to their integrated management. Special attention will be given to arresting the process of erosion, soil pollution and eutrophication of inland waters, along with efforts to rationalize activities relevant to the management of forests. 42/

40/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.65.

41/ Document UNEP/GC/61, paras.92 and 93.

42/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.67.

(ii) Summary of strategy

- Special attention to arresting processes of erosion, soil pollution and eutrophication of inland water;
- Support for intergovernmental organizations engaged in development or planning activities in these ecosystems and co-ordination of these actions;
- Emphasis on comparative interregional studies on the origin and structures of these ecosystems;
- Application of knowledge on a pilot basis with a view to extending experience gained to other ecosystems of similar type. 43/

(d) Ecosystems, cites and samples 43a/

(i) Objectives

- To create the basis for a world-wide network of protected areas of terrestrial, marine and inland waters, national parks and biological reserves;
- To identify, restore and conserve terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of great biological and ecological significance as well as natural and cultural areas which constitute the heritage of all mankind;
- To identify representative samples of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and investigate the impacts of human activities on them. These protected areas would be used as far as possible for research, training and permanent monitoring of natural resources. 44/

(ii) Summary of strategy

- Assistance to Governments in evaluating the potential for and advantages of creating national parks and biological reserves;
- Design of international agreements to facilitate the exchange of information;
- Co-ordination of the management of protected natural areas shared by several countries;
- Establishment of a world-wide network of national parks and nature reserves;
- Launching of a comprehensive training programme for managers of national parks, nature reserves and wildlife resources. 45/

43/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.101.

43a/ This section has now been combined with Wildlife and endangered species, and entitled Wildlife and protected areas (see document UNEP/GC/90).

44/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.71.

45/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.104.

(e) Wildlife and endangered species 45a/

(i) Objectives

- To maintain the health of particular ecosystems, biomes or habitats, by preserving the minimum population size necessary for the survival of a given species;
- To help ensure that conservation and management measures for endangered species, and the legislation on which such measures are based, take full account of (a) above;
- To support research activities designed to give adequate basis for the right strategy to achieve these objectives. 46/

(ii) Summary of strategy

- Research into the environmental role of each species within its ecosystem;
- Legislation for the conservation and management of endangered species and their habitats;
- Promotion of an understanding of the long-term benefits of maintaining wildlife resources;
- Assessment of the interactions between water, soil, vegetation and populations of wild animals;
- Research at regional as well as global levels on wildlife population dynamics, migration, adaptive behaviour and physiology;
- Impact of pollutants on wildlife;
- Updating of lists of threatened plant and animal species;
- Criteria, new methodologies and approaches for identifying rare endangered and non-endangered species;
- Action pursuant to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora to reach agreement prohibiting extreme exploitation of wildlife resources. 47/

(f) Soils

(i) Objective

- To investigate soil degradation processes and to help prevent soil degradation and restore or improve soils which have been damaged or degraded. 48/

45a/ See footnote 43 a above.

46/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.75.

47/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.114.

48/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.77.

(ii) Summary of strategy

- Quantitative measurement of available soil and qualitative measurement of its productivity;
- Understanding the dynamics of soil loss;
- Action to prevent further soil loss;
- Programmes at the regional and local levels to restore soil fertility. 49/

(g) Water

(i) Objectives

To develop a concerted effort directed towards:

- Arresting and correcting existing unsatisfactory water conditions;
- Preventing and protecting water sources against further degradation through the practice of more effective forms of water use.

These phases of the process will be integrated and complementary. 50/

(ii) Summary of strategy

- The development of rural and urban water management and waste water disposal systems to protect water sources from sewage, industrial and agricultural pollution. Ecologically sound waste water disposal systems which encourage recycling and cleansing through biological processes will be established to demonstrate the integration of safe waste disposal methods and multiple uses of water;
- The inclusion of environmental protection and safety measures in river and lake basin development projects. In co-operation with appropriate agencies and Governments, it is intended to encourage measures which will minimize the damage to environmental quality which often results from the modification of habitats and from agricultural processes, urbanization and industrialization;
- Attention will be paid to the selection of demonstration projects which will apply existing knowledge to improving water supply systems;
- Support will be given to the establishment of centres and facilities for training in water resources management;
- Active participation in the preparation for the United Nations Water Conference. 51/

49/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.118.

50/ Document UNEP/GC/31, paras.82 and 83.

51/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.130.

(h) Genetic resources

(i) Objectives

- To search for knowledge about threatened species, and to evolve a strategy to conserve plants and animals and preserve germplasms;
- To undertake studies on micro-organisms which could enable man to use them in efficient and novel ways for his betterment and for the enhancement of the environment. 52/

(ii) Summary of strategy

- To appraise all species of known or potential value to agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and to preserve examples of as many as practicable, by assessing the state of the key species, and then undertaking a comprehensive programme of conservation;
- To support specialist training programmes to ensure the existence of local expertise;
- To support specialist research programmes aimed directly at creating knowledge to fill existing gaps;
- To initiate action designed to create innovative uses for genetic resources, and thereby to contribute to wiser resource utilization and conservation. 53/

2. Concentration areas

- Developing means to arrest destruction of soil;
- Improving the productivity of arid and semi-arid ecosystems;
- Encouraging programmes of scientific research and pilot projects in integrated tropical ecology and developing guidelines for the ecologically-sound management of tropical woodlands and forests, and conservation of threatened life within these ecosystems;
- Promotion of a world-wide programme for the protection and planting of trees;
- Enhancement of the quality and quantity of rural water supplies while avoiding damage to the environment and undesirable side effects on human health;
- Support for the establishment of training centres for water resources management;
- Support for measures to conserve genetic resources, in particular the development of a network of microbiological resources centres for micro-organisms especially rhizobia. 54/

52/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.86.

53/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.140.

54/ Document UNEP/GC/57, para.4.

C. Environment and development (corresponding section in document UNEP/GC/90: chapter III, section C) 54a/

I. Objectives and strategies

(a) Integrated approach to environment and development

(i) Objectives

- To promote the internal efforts of countries to develop their capacity for autonomous goal-setting and decision making;
- To play the role of innovator, initiator and catalyst in the search for alternative patterns and approaches to development and for a new rationality based on a new set of goals, by constantly testing new concepts, organizing feedback, and thus contributing to the broadening and dispersion of the theoretical knowledge available;
- To help orient the environmental policies of the international community and of individual countries so as not to create obstacles to development, and to help orient economic policies of the international community and of individual countries so as to further environmental objectives;
- To help define the link between technology, and environment and development in order to determine the role of technology in the development process and in man's action to transform the environment. 55/

(ii) Summary of strategy

- To adopt a global approach to the solution of environmental problems, consisting of a planned restructuring of international economic relations and development of new patterns of resource use, space use, development and use of technology, and long-term population policies. It was recognized that while most of these issues are outside the immediate responsibility of UNEP, UNEP must concern itself with them because environment permeates all and has a synthesizing effect;
- To participate actively in the construction of the new international economic order approved by the sixth special session of the General Assembly;
- Further conceptual elaboration of the environment and development nexus;

54a/ Changes in subsections of the priority subject area are explained in Document UNEP/GC/90.

55/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.96.

- To organize seminars on a regional basis and in co-operation with the regional commission to discuss the conceptual framework resulting from element (c) above. The main purpose of the seminars would be to ensure that regional development and environment problems and opportunities are fully taken into account in planning for the future;
- To undertake, in full co-operation with other United Nations organizations, especially UNDP, action-orientated case studies on environment and development in each region;
- To develop the planning techniques and methodologies needed to ensure inclusion of environmental criteria in development planning;
- To undertake, together with others, the formulation of principles and strategies for ensuring achievement of basic human needs for all over the next twenty-five years without an unacceptable level of environmental degradation;
- To participate with other organizations in further investigation of the interacting relationships between population, resources, environment and development;
- To collaborate with other organizations in investigating how the resources needed to deal with the environmental problem of global commons could be raised;
- To collaborate with others to ensure that the environmental objective is accorded high priority in future General Assembly resolutions, and in the deliberations and decisions of international conferences, especially the forthcoming Fourth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the ILO Tripartite World Conference on Employment, Income Distribution and Social Progress and the International Division of Labour. 56/

(b) Ecodevelopment

(i) Objectives

- To further refine the present operational concept of ecodevelopment;
- To develop a set of guidelines for development planning consistent with the ecodevelopment approach;
- To include the concept of ecodevelopment in the integrated planning of development. 57/

(ii) Summary of strategy

To build up a clear concept of ecodevelopment. 58/

56/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.154 and 155.

57/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.99.

58/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.159.

(c) Socio-economic impact of environmental measures or their absence

(i) Objective

- To obtain adequate knowledge of the real effects of the presence or absence of various environmental policies and/or measures. 59/

(ii) Summary of strategy

- To individualize, classify and group "types" of social and economic consequences of environmental measures or absence;
- To develop new methodologies, other than classical methodologies of cost-benefit analysis, for evaluating the impact of environmental measures or their absence;
- To evaluate trade-offs, i.e. the monetary and non-monetary costs of environmental measures versus the costs of their absence;
- To examine how costs of environmental measures are internalized and transferred;
- To evaluate the role of environment-related perceptions and values in development. 60/

(d) Natural products including food (new and alternative products, rational uses of natural resources, substitutions, rational use of synthetic products)

(i) Objectives

- To define new criteria and patterns for natural resources use consonant with the new goals and requirements and corresponding to alternative patterns of development;
- To evaluate the environmental consequences of the replacement of natural by synthetic products and vice versa, of new uses of natural products and of new products (natural or synthetic);
- To introduce patterns for replacing non-renewable natural resources with renewable natural resources;
- To identify new uses for abundant and/or renewable natural resources. 61/

(ii) Summary of strategy

- To examine the nature of the process of substitution of certain resources by other resources;
- To include environmental considerations in the process of development of new products, and in the programmes for developing synthetic and natural product industries;

59/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.102.

60/ Document UNEP/GC/61, paras. 161 and 162.

61/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.105.

- To investigate the possibilities of replacing existing products by new products with more positive overall environmental impact;
- To develop guidelines for the rational use of natural products on the basis of the new objectives of the international community as defined in recent years, e.g. low-energy versus high-energy raw materials, renewable versus non-renewable resources and non-consumable versus consumable materials. 62/

(e) Technology (environmentally sound and appropriate technologies)

(i) Objectives

- To develop and promote environmentally sound technologies and techniques for using them, and to contribute to devising research and development policies designed to achieve this objective;
- To evaluate the guidelines, reasoning and interests that have governed the process of research and development and to consider in the evaluation the effects of the use of the resulting technologies on the environment;
- To examine the problem of technological dependence and the need for adaptation to the environment in the overall process of transfer of technology;
- To define the role that environmental factors have played and should play in the selection and transfer of technology;
- To promote transfer of technologies in accordance with the requirements and the specific characteristics of recipient countries and to help developing countries adapt these technologies;
- To contribute to developing new international rules and practices for the transfer of environmentally sound technologies;
- To identify specific areas in which the developing countries can make an effort to create their own technologies oriented towards rational exploitation of natural resources with due consideration of environmental factors;
- To contribute to defining the concept of social responsibility in research and development. 63/

(ii) Summary of strategy

- The promotion of research activities on technical and economic aspects of low polluting and non-waste technology;
- The definition and identification of new patterns of research and development and the transfer of technology;
- The identification of environmental factors in the process of research and development and transfer of technology;

62/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.165.

63/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.109.

- Advice to Governments, investors, industrial enterprises and trade unions on the selection of technologies for new investment projects;
- The strengthening of research and development capacity in developing countries in accordance with their specific needs and characteristics;
- Continuing consultations with Governments, international organizations and the international legal community to facilitate the development of international rules and practices for the transfer of technology. 64/

(f) Industrial location

(i) Objectives

- To define new criteria for industrial location in which environmental parameters are taken into account;
- To introduce spatial distribution of industry as a new element in the international division of labour, and to link this with the new international economic order;
- To enable developing countries to benefit from relocation of industry in continuing their policies of industrialization while taking into account environmental protection. 65/

(ii) Summary of strategy

To develop better criteria for industrial location in which environmental parameters are taken into account, and envisaged evaluation of the following factors:

- The requirements of international trade and of certain types of industry;
- The effect on population distribution and human settlements;
- The problem of availability of space;
- Environmental impact of particular industrial processes. 66/

(g) Environmental problems of specific industries

(i) Objectives

- To formulate guidelines for the use of Governments in assessing and controlling the broad environmental effects of certain industries;
- To develop information on the environmental effects of industries which may be of use in other parts of the Programme. 67/

64/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.170.

65/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.114.

66/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.175.

67/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.112.

(ii) Summary of strategy

- To enlist the co-operation of industry, on an industry-by-industry basis, in identifying major environmental concerns of particular industries and formulating measures to deal with them, and considering the views of employees and trade unions, as well as those of State-owned and private industries, through industry workshops and associated technical groups which will define and analyse the relevant problems; 68/

2. Concentration areas

- Support for measures for development and dissemination of environmentally sound and appropriate technologies;
- Development of an improved conceptual and methodological approach to integration of environmental considerations with the development process and further elaboration and application of the concept of ecodevelopment;
- Definition of environmental problems of specific industries and development of guides to action for Governments and industries in dealing with them, particularly through the programme of industry seminars. 69/

D. Oceans (corresponding section in document UNEP/GC/90: chapter III, section D)

1. Objectives and strategies

(a) General

(i) Objectives

To work out and support the implementation of plans for arresting pollution of the oceans and closed or semi-closed seas, and for managing the aquatic living resources to ensure that the best use is made of them. Efforts will also be made to ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account at the Law of the Sea Conference. 70/

(ii) Summary of strategy

- Promotion of international and regional conventions, guidelines and action for the control of marine pollution and for the protection and management of aquatic marine resources;
- Assessment of the state of pollution and of living resources;
- Monitoring of marine pollution and aquatic living resources;
- Support for education and training efforts that should enhance the participation of developing nations;
- Exchange of information on marine pollution and aquatic resources. 71/

68/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.177.

69/ Document UNEP/GC/57, para.4.

70/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.117.

71/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.185.

(b) Living marine resources

(i) Objectives

- To maintain the productivity and health of marine ecosystems and their populations of plants and animals at, or restore them to, optimum levels. 72/

(ii) Summary of strategy

- To promote international and regional conventions leading to the conservation, management and wise utilization of marine living resources and their habitats;
- To promote research into ocean ecosystems as a whole, rather than a single species, with increased attention to the interactions between terrestrial ecosystems influenced by man and marine ecosystems;
- To encourage the restoration of depleted populations of whales, sirenians and marine turtles through protection agreements, conservation measures and research programmes;
- To encourage Governments to take legislative and other measures to avoid mass killing of non-target mammals and birds in the course of fishing;
- To encourage Governments to take measures against over-exploitation and destruction of living marine resources, such as algae, tidal estuaries, mangrove swamps and forests, lagoons, sea-grass beds, kelp beds, coral reefs, and seals and marine turtles including their breeding areas. 73/

2. Concentration areas

- Continued support for the United Nations Conference on Law of the Sea in respect of environmental aspects;
- Implementation of the comprehensive Action Plan for the Protection of the Mediterranean;
- Initiation of preparatory work towards similar activities in respect of other important regional seas, particularly the Persian Gulf, the Caribbean and the West African coastal region. 74/

E. Energy (corresponding section in document UNEP/GC/90: chapter III, section E)

1. Objectives and strategies

(a) Objectives - Not defined.

72/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.206.

73/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.207.

74/ Document UNEP/GC/57, para.4.

(b) Summary of strategy

- Revision of the review on the impact of production and use of energy on the environment paying special attention to the comparative assessment of the environmental and health effects of all relevant forms of energy production and uses;
- Establishment in some of the typical rural areas of the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, in co-operation with the Governments concerned and such agencies within and outside the United Nations system as may be considered appropriate, of a few demonstration centres harnessing individually or in combination the renewable resources of energy locally available;
- In the area of nuclear energy, the importance of co-operation and co-ordination of activities between UNEP and IAEA was stressed. 75/

2. Concentration areas

- Updating the review of the impact of energy production and use on the environment and following up on issues identified in it;
- Establishment of three rural energy demonstration centres in Asia, Africa and Latin America;
- Examination with IAEA of the impact of nuclear energy on the environment. 76/

F. Natural disasters (corresponding section in document UNEP/GC/90: chapter III, section F)

1. Objectives and strategies

(a) Objectives

- To establish orders of priority with respect to types of disasters or geographical regions to be covered first. Statistical data on actual disaster damage can make it possible to carry out cost-benefit analyses of the various possible preventive measures and thus to reach more rational decisions as to the use of specific techniques and available resources. 77/

(b) Summary of strategy

Survey and analysis of existing knowledge, including:

- Conducting a World Survey of Disaster Damage with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) as the co-operating agency, and with the participation of other agencies; the survey may be followed at a later stage by studies on specific aspects of the environmental and social impacts of disasters;

75/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.212.

76/ Document UNEP/GC/57, para.4.

77/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.154.

- Preparing a state of the art report on existing knowledge in disaster prevention, mitigation and warning techniques;
- Examination of possibilities for the immediate practical application of existing knowledge;
- Development and dissemination of new knowledge and improved techniques. 78/
- Early warning, prevention and mitigation of natural disasters, including support for the formulation of the international strategy for disaster prevention. 79/

2. Concentration area

- Support for activities meant to ensure early warning and community preparedness to natural disasters. 80/

IV. SUPPORTING MEASURES

A. Environmental education and training (corresponding sections in document UNEP/GC/90: chapter IV, sections A and B) 81/

1. Objectives and strategies

(a) Objectives

- To effect a rapid and systematic development of environmental education on a global basis; to provide training in specific areas of policy, programming and implementation of national and regional development plans based on properly developed methods including environmental dimensions;
- To create environmental awareness at the highest policy levels and hence at the levels of decision making in all sectors of development, in both the public and the private context, will be major objectives;
- To provide the education and training necessary to make it possible for all countries to be able to participate in all appropriate parts of the rest of the programme in an informed manner as equal partners;
- To establish means of inducing policy-makers, decision-makers, and administrators in the Governments of all countries to include environmental dimensions in the consideration of their policies, programmes and projects. 82/

78/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.218.

79/ Governing Council decision 61 (IV), para.1.

80/ Document UNEP/GC/57, para.4.

81/ Though environmental education and training are reported on separately in document UNEP/GC/90, the objectives and strategies for each have been grouped together in previous reports to the Governing Council.

82/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.181.

(b) Summary of strategy

- Training for officials, planners, decision-makers, specialists and other groups;
- Stimulation of education and training through institutions of excellence, regional programmes (seminars, symposia, etc.);
- Activities relating to the development of new curricula, teaching materials, information systems, etc.;
- Development of instruments such as fellowships, institutional linkages, funding, and, on an experimental basis, a Programme Activity Centre for environmental education and training. 83/

2. Concentration areas

- Implementation of the programme of environmental education jointly with UNESCO;
- Establishment of a programme activity centre for environmental education and training;
- Conduct of and support for training programmes on a regional basis, particularly of personnel from developing countries involved in planning and management of various aspects of development which have an important environmental dimension. 84/

B. Information (corresponding section in document UNEP/GC/90: chapter IV, section C)

1. Objective and strategies

(a) Objective

- To increase consciousness and appreciation of environmental matters through support for national programmes among both particular special interest groups and the masses and to involve them in relevant action by preparing an information process appropriate to both environmental conditions and media requirements. 85/

(b) Summary of strategy

- Preparation and provision of media reference services;
- Preparation and provision of materials supporting media activities;
- Establishment of effective liaison with media personnel and organizations;
- Preparation of training and briefing seminars;

83/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.350.

84/ Document UNEP/GC/57, para.4.

85/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.177.

- Technical assistance for media infrastructures or information services;
- Implementation of a communications component in the planning and execution of environmental projects;
- Material for direct distribution;
- World Environment Day;
- Implementation of a publications programme;
- Support for the information media of non-governmental organizations;
- Co-ordination of environmental information activities of the United Nations system. 86/

2. Concentration area

- Stimulation of a flow of information designed to intensify public awareness and appreciation of environmental issues. 87/

C. Technical assistance (corresponding section in document UNEP/GC/90: chapter IV, section D)

1. Objectives and strategies

(a) Objectives

To make it possible for all countries to:

- Participate fully in regional, transnational and global environment-related programmes;
- Manage their own environment in accordance with their own aspirations and needs, in harmony with their development objectives and any international agreements to which they are parties; 88/

(b) Summary of strategy

- To enable developing countries to carry out their part of substantive programmes of UNEP;
- To satisfy requests from individual countries for assistance in a number of specific areas, and to provide overview assistance;
- To establish a clearing house system;
- To act as a catalytic agent between developed and developing country groups with common interests;
- To provide assistance direct in special cases in which other mechanisms are not available;

86/ Document UNEP/GC/61, paras.335 and 336.

87/ Document UNEP/GC/57, para.4.

88/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.189.

- To establish a small cadre of advisers in each region;
- To promote study tours in countries which have particularly useful experience to offer;
- To mount missions, if necessary jointly with other organizations, to identify the needs of individual countries. 89/

2. Concentration areas

- Development of a technical assistance clearing-house facility;
- Conduct of traditional technical assistance functions requested by Governments. 90/

V. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT INCLUDING ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

A. Environmental law (corresponding section in document UNEP/GC/90: chapter V, section A)

1. Objectives and strategies

(a) Objectives

- To contribute towards the development and codification of a new body of international law, to meet new requirements generated by environmental concerns and by the international strategy in the field of the environment, based particularly on the Declaration of Stockholm;
- To facilitate co-operation among States for the development of international law regarding responsibility, liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage caused by activities within the jurisdiction or control of States to areas beyond the limits of their jurisdiction, in accordance with Principles 21, 22, 23 and 24 of the Stockholm Declaration;
- To contribute towards the development of environmental law on the national and regional levels;
- To promote the protection of international commons and the regulation of their use from the environmental point of view;
- To work towards establishment of guidelines and procedures for the avoidance and settlement of environmental disputes;
- To study institutional structures related to environmental concerns, with the aim of devising efficient new mechanisms or improving the existing ones. 91/

89/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.359.

90/ Document UNEP/GC/57, para.4.

91/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.211.

(b) Summary of strategy

- Systematic collection of data and information;
- Elaboration and development of the principles introduced in the Stockholm Declaration and decisions of the Governing Council relating to the responsibilities of States in the field of environmental law;
- Promotion of international agreements or conventions to deal with global environmental concerns as well as with specific environmental problems in given geographical contexts, and efforts to encourage international forums and organizations to take the environmental law aspect into account in their work;
- Encouragement of universities and other research institutions to include environmental law in their curricula and work;
- Promotion of comparative studies of national environmental protection legislation;
- Provision of technical assistance to developing countries for the development of their environmental legislation. 92/

2. Concentration areas

- Implementation of Governing Council decisions for the initiation of activities to promote co-operation in the field of the environment concerning natural resources shared by two or more States;
- Development of a programme of activities in relation to environmental law at the national level. 93/

B. Environmental management (corresponding section in document UNEP/GC/90: chapter V, section B)

1. Objectives and strategies

(a) Objectives

- To identify and examine the components of the development process which bear on the condition of the environment, and the linkages between such components, for the purpose of elaborating and evaluating alternative patterns of development and alternative choices in respect of particular development options;
- To identify and examine various "nodal points" of interaction and feedback, especially between population, resources, environment and development, and to recommend appropriate action;
- To orient scientific and technological research to assist in defining and evaluating the interacting relationships among such components and facilitate the process of technological choice;

92/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.320.

93/ Document UNEP/GC/57, para.4.

To assure the full integration of the environmental dimension in the process of development planning;

- To ensure incorporation of environmental criteria in the process of economic evaluation and management;
- To develop a body of curricula and teaching materials for education in environmental management;
- To develop a body of people educated and/or trained in environmental management. 94/

(b) Summary of strategy

- To ensure that the environmental dimension is included in the mid-term review of the International Development Strategy, and to study linkages between the new international economic order and environmental management;
- To ensure that activities of the agencies of the United Nations system reflect the integrated approach to environment and development objectives;
- To promote, at country and regional levels the integrated approach to environment and qualitative development at all levels;
- To define and clarify the ways in which the environmental dimension conditions the development process;
- To ensure that all UNEP activities include the overall approach to environmental management;
- To develop methodologies of environmental management and encourage their application in real situations with corresponding evaluation and review;
- To emphasize the optimization of the resource conversion process and examine relevant policies for achievement of this objective;
- To ensure that account is taken of the carrying capacities of particular ecosystems in relation to patterns of local technology;
- To elaborate recommendations in relation to economic, technical and social factors in environmental management, and formulate appropriate policy guidelines for the consideration of Governments;
- To disseminate information on theories, methodologies and the results of practical experience in environmental management. 95/

2. Concentration area

- Development and refining of the concept of environmental management, and establishment of a number of pilot activities which apply it. 96/

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94/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para.171.

95/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para.317.

96/ Document UNEP/GC/57, para.4.

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COMPENDIUM OF APPROVED OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND CONCENTRATION AREAS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Corrigendum

1. In chapter II: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, Section A: Earthwatch, part I: Objectives and strategies, insert a new sub-section:

"(c) IRPTC

"(i) Objectives

"- To facilitate access on a global basis to scientific and administrative data concerning potentially toxic and other environmentally significant chemical substances;

"- To encourage international co-operation in determining the impact of chemicals on man and the environment;

"- To encourage a more open relationship between industry and regulatory authorities, in both industrialized and developing countries, in order to make relevant data more readily available;

"- To provide information concerning national, regional and global policies; regulatory measures; criteria studies; international standards and recommendations; and to serve as a basis for draft model legislation;

"- To provide essential data for the operation of the early warning capability being developed within the relevant sections of the Programme;

"- To develop - through action by IRS - a network for dissemination of information which participants wish to provide to IRPTC on environmentally significant chemical substances;

"- To launch an intensive programme for a small number of substances, selected on the basis of their environmental importance, utilizing all available information on these substances to develop comprehensive and detailed central files. 16/

"16/ Document UNEP/GC/31, para. 45."

Na.77-1080.

"(ii) Summary of strategy

"- To establish a programme activity centre with capability for handling data and answering queries;

"- To develop a network of national, regional and international participants willing to contribute information and data on environmentally significant chemical substances (Extensive Programme);

"- To initiate a programme to compile comprehensive dossiers on selected priority substances, in relation to similar international programmes (Intensive Programme). 17/".

2. Re-letter the following sub-section of Earthwatch as follows:

(d) Outer limits

3. Renumber subsequent foot-notes.

4. In chapter III: PRIORITY SUBJECT AREAS, Section A: Human settlements and human health, part I: Objectives and strategies, (b) Health of people and of the environment, (i) Human and environmental health, delete from the summary of strategy the following:

"- To establish a programme activity centre with capability for handling data and answering queries;

"- To develop a network of national, regional and international participants willing to contribute information and data on environmentally significant chemical substances (Extensive Programme);

"- To initiate a programme to compile comprehensive dossiers on selected priority substances, in relation to similar international programmes (Intensive Programme).".

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"17/ Document UNEP/GC/61, para. 57."